

WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF SB 323

25 January 2016

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This letter is to express my support of Senate Bill 323 to assist with suicide prevention. While no measure is guaranteed to be fool proof or stop every attempted suicide; this is an excellent step forward.

Suicide is a tragedy no matter what the age of the individual involved but teen suicide is an especially painful occurrence as no parent ever imagines having to bury their own child.

I completed (retired)20 years of service to the Air Force and Kansas Air National Guard in December of 2014. During my last 4-5 years of service the military was actively aware of the issue of veteran suicide and began doing training and outreach regarding bullying, depression and suicide intervention.

SB 323 is a great opportunity to extend this type of training to high school staff to help them reach out to any child that might be being bullied or feeling depressed and considering suicide. Best of all, as this is supported by The Jason Foundation the costs, other than time for the classes, are negligible at best.

Anything that any of us can do to prevent a suicide (along with working to treat depression and stop bullying) should be common sense, non-partisan and fast tracked for immediate legislative approval and signature by the Governor.

I believe that this bill is an excellent use of the legislature's time. And I would hope you would advance it to the full Senate and approve it as quickly as possible.

Regards

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